

## CLAIMS:

Sub. a1 >

1. A shaped product or structure for medical or related purposes, characterised in that it is formed from coral.
2. A product or structure according to claim 1, characterised in that the coral is of the species *Porites*.
3. A product or structure according to claim 1, characterised in that the coral is of the species *Acropora*.
4. A product or structure according to claim 3, characterised in that the coral is *Acropora grandis*.
5. A product or structure according to claim 1 which is a hardware item for medical or related purposes.
6. A product or structure according to claim 5, which is a cylinder, sleeve, pin, screw, bolt, nut, spacer, or flat or curved plate, for medical or related purposes.
7. A product or structure according to claim 1, which is a prosthetic or implant device.
8. A product or structure according to claim 1, wherein a therapeutically active substance is adsorbed or bound onto the coral.
9. A product or structure according to claim 8, wherein the therapeutically active substance is an antibiotic.

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*C1*

10. A product or structure according to claim 8, wherein the therapeutically active substance is a growth factor to assist or promote bone ingrowth.

11. A device for medical or related purposes which comprises an assembly of shaped products or structures according to any of claims 1 to 10.

12. A device according to claim 8 which is an assembly comprising first and second elongate members each of which is adapted to be fixed at one end to a long bone, the other ends of each of said first and second elongate members being externally and internally threaded, respectively, so that said first member is received by said second member in a threaded inter-engagement to enable the overall length of the device to be adjusted, and optionally an internally-threaded third member in threaded engagement with the first member to act as a locking nut and lock the second member with respect to the first member at a desired overall length.

*ADD a2 >*